

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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February 24, 2004

FROM: KEN A. MILLER, Director
Department of Public Works - **Transportation**

**SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC LANDS HIGHWAY DISCRETIONARY PROGRAM
FUNDING FOR TWO COUNTY PROJECTS**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the submittal of Public Lands Highway Discretionary Program (PLHD) project applications to California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Local Assistance for \$3 million in federal funds for Needles Highway realignment and safety improvements and \$500,000 in federal funds for paving Summit Valley Road in the Hesperia area.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Congress recently passed the FY 2004 Omnibus Appropriations Act. In the conference report (FY 2004 PLHD Designations in Conference Report 108-401), accompanying the Act, Congress has designated PLHD funding for specific projects. The County may only apply for funding for the projects listed in the conference report. Needles Highway and Summit Valley Road are both included in the report. To secure the appropriation of \$3 million in PLHD funds for Needles Highway and \$500,000 for Summit Valley Road, the County must submit applications electronically to Caltrans Local Assistance. Caltrans Local Assistance District 8 staff then forwards the application to Sacramento. Only State Departments of Transportation may submit applications for funding under this project. The Department of Public Works anticipates approval of the application by Caltrans and the State to the Federal Highway Administration. The deadline for submittal of the application to Caltrans Local Assistance is February 27, 2004.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS: This item was reviewed by Deputy County Counsel Charles S. Scolastico (387-5481) on February 5, 2004 and by the County Administrative Office (Tom Forster, Administrative Analyst 387-4635) on February 12, 2004.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: This action merely approves submission of the grant application. Therefore, there is no financial impact at this time. The Omnibus Act applies an across the board rescission of 0.59 percent which includes the PLHD Program. Federal action has also determined that a local match equal to ten percent be committed should the Department be successful in its effort of obtaining these grants. The dollar amounts awarded would be reduced by the local match and the rescission percentage and be available on a reimbursable basis. If these applications are successful, a future item would be presented to the Board for acceptance of the grant funds in accordance with County policy.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item, concurs with the Department's proposal, and recommends this action based on the fact that only a ten percent match is required under the program. The \$3.5 million of federal monies from PLHD funds would be received on a reimbursable basis. County appropriations as necessary would be included in the FY 04/05 budget for the road fund (SAA-TRA-TRA).

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): 1st

PRESENTER: Ken A. Miller, 387-7906

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors